



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

**Friday, April 28, 2006**

**Contact: Carla Vigue, Communications Officer, 608-266-1683**

**GOVERNOR DOYLE SEEKS INPUT ON BADGERCARE PLUS  
PLAN TO PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL KIDS IN WISCONSIN**  
*First of a Series of Town Hall Meetings in Green Bay*

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle has directed the Department of Health and Family Services to gather input from families, health care providers, advocates, social workers, and policy makers about his BadgerCare Plus proposal to provide health insurance for all kids in Wisconsin. On Tuesday, May 2, Helene Nelson, Secretary of the Department will host the first in a series of regional town hall meetings to discuss the proposal at Bosco Hall in Green Bay at 10:00 a.m.

"I believe health care in Wisconsin should be a birthright, not a ticket to bankruptcy," Governor Doyle said. "The rising cost of health care is pricing more and more middle-class families out of their coverage, and every year more than 90,000 kids every year go without basic health insurance. I proposed *BadgerCare Plus*, to give every parent—regardless of their income—the opportunity to join a plan with affordable, comprehensive coverage for their family.

The Department is seeking input from families who currently use the BadgerCare program about their current health insurance experience. The Department is also seeking input from families whose income is too high to qualify for the BadgerCare program but don't have access to affordable health care.

In his State of the State address, Governor Doyle outlined his Affordability Agenda that included an initiative called BadgerCare Plus. The Governor has tasked the Department of Health and Family Services with developing the BadgerCare Plus proposal to provide health insurance for all kids in Wisconsin regardless of their family's income and expand the eligibility of the current BadgerCare program to include more adults. The Department has already assembled a BadgerCare Plus Advisory Committee comprised of health officials, advocates, health care financing experts, and State legislators to oversee the technical development of the proposal.

In Wisconsin, seven percent of our residents were without health insurance at any given point in time in 2004. This includes the 91,000 children who were without health insurance for at least part of the year.

According to the Institute of Medicine, uninsured children are less likely than insured children to receive preventative check ups and immunizations or get their prescriptions filled.

**Where:** **Bosco Hall 1**  
**1825 Riverside Drive**  
**Green Bay**

**When:** **Tuesday, May 2, 2006**  
**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

To learn more about BadgerCare Plus visit: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus>. Comments can be emailed to [badgercareplus@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:badgercareplus@dhfs.state.wi.us)

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